

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a method for producing a sealed organic electroluminescence device.

In the Office Action dated March 18, 2008, the Examiner examined elected claims 10, 11, 15, and 18, and withdrew claims 1-9, 12-14, 16, 17, and 19-21 from consideration. Claims 10, 11, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness, with respect to the dependency of the claims and certain aspects of the recitations which were considered to be unclear. Lastly, claims 10, 11, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gyotoku (JP11-224771) in view of Nakada (JP 2000-086989) or Yamaguchi et al. (WO 02/102911).

In the present Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 10, 11, 15 and 18 to improve the clarity and definiteness of the claims, including placing these claims in independent form. Based thereon, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should now be withdrawn. The non-elected claims have been cancelled; new claims 22-32 have been added, directed to various preferred embodiments of the method, support therefore being found in the cancelled claims and/or the specification.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and submits that amended claims 10, 11, 15, and 18, as well as the added claims, distinguish over and are patentable over the cited art.

The Gyotoku reference relates to the field of organic electroluminescence elements, and is concerned with optimizing the sealing structure in order to improve reliability. The Examiner has recognized that Gyotoku does not teach applying light irradiation to the adhesive before the adhesive fills the space between the sealing plate and the thin film structure. However, the Examiner has asserted that based on Nakada or Yamaguchi, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to “initiate the cure of the adhesive by applying light irradiation as taught by Gyotoku directly to the adhesive, i.e., before applying the adhesive to fill the gap.....” as suggested by Nakada or Yamaguchi.

However, in accordance with claims 10, 11, 15, and 18, (1) after irradiating light is applied to the adhesive, (2) the organic electroluminescence device is sealed by filling the space between a sealing plate and a thin film structure with said adhesive, and that is done (3) before said adhesive is cured.

It is therefore respectfully submitted to be clear that the present claimed invention would not be achieved by modifying the Gyotoku reference in the manner suggested by the Examiner in view of the secondary references.

Furthermore, in view of various possible embodiments described in the Nakada and Yamaguchi references, there must be some teaching, suggestion, motivation, or other reason in the art, identified by the Examiner, that would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to make particular selections from the cited art so as to reach the presently claimed invention. It is insufficient to identify fragments of teachings in multiple references after the fact, and with knowledge of Applicant's claims, to reach a conclusion of obviousness.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §103(a) rejection of claims 10, 11, 15, and 18 should now be withdrawn, and all pending claims allowed forthwith.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may facilitate the further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number included below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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